

Claim 21, line 1, delete "or 18".

Claim 22, line 1, delete "or 18".

Claim 23, line 1, delete "or 18".

Claim 25, line 1, delete "or 18".

Claim 30, line 1, change "any one of claims 17 to 29" to --Claim 17--.

Claim 31, line 1, change "any one of claims 17 to 30" to --Claim 17.

Claim 32, line 1, delete "or 18".

Claim 33, line 1, delete "or 18".

REMARKS

Claim 1-33 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 3, 4, 9-12, 14, 20-23, 25 and 30-33 are amended to eliminate multiple dependencies. Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Thomas J. Pardini
Registration No. 30,411

JAO:TJP/crt

Date: May 4, 2000

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400